



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC TO DISCUSS 2005 PERFORMANCE AT NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is scheduled to meet with Dominion officials on Tuesday, April 18, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the North Anna nuclear power plant, located near Mineral in central Virginia.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the North Anna Nuclear Information Center at the plant site. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of the North Anna plant and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region II Administrator William Travers said. "This meeting is a chance for us to discuss that safety performance with the company, with local officials and with people living near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/na_2005q4.pdf.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," depending on the safety significance of the issues involved.

The NRC said the North Anna plant operated safely during 2005 with all inspection findings being "green," or very low safety significance, and all performance indicators also indicating performance at levels requiring no additional NRC oversight.

As a result, the NRC plans to conduct only routine baseline inspections at the plant for the rest of 2006. The NRC staff will also conduct several non-routine inspections, including the independent spent fuel storage facility and the containment sump for both units.

Routine inspections are performed by NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by specialists from the Region II Office in Atlanta, and the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Current information for the North Anna plant is available on the NRC web site at:
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/NA1/na1_chart.html and
www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/NA2/na2_chart.html .

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